

JOTTINGS ABOUT THE CITY.

The Throop hotel has 168 rooms. Tax payments have been unusually prompt this year. The state agricultural society meets in Topeka in two weeks. One minister in Topeka has married four couples this week. There was a cake-walk of the genuine sort in old Tennesseetown, Christmas night. A set of harness was stolen yesterday from Morrow's livery stable on the North side. J. G. Waters will move his law office tomorrow to the third floor of the Columbia building. William Miller, of fire station No. 2, took his dogs and went up the river hunting last night. Charles Gilliam and J. C. Underwood of the Santa Fe fuel department at Pueblo, are visiting friends in Topeka. The new drug store in the Throop hotel building will be completed this week. It will be one of the finest in Kansas. The new high school is an object of interest to the visiting teachers. It wasn't built a year ago when they were here. Today is St. John's day in the Episcopal calendar. Yesterday was St. Stephen's day, and to-morrow will be Holy Innocence day. The Alumni students of the Kansas State university attending the State Teachers' association, will hold a meeting at the Throop hotel. Parkhurst & Davis have filed a motion in the district court to direct the sheriff to sell at auction the personal property of G. R. Heise, the grocer. The board of county commissioners convened this afternoon. They need to be reminded that they haven't advertised for bids for coal yet this year. The five per cent tax penalty which usually begins December 21 has been extended until closing time tonight. The penalty goes into effect tomorrow. The prize wrestle between Johnny Walker and Paddy Ogee, Christmas, did not occur owing to the failure of Ogee to appear. The \$25 forfeit was awarded to Walker. The signature of Seymour Davis, the state architect, on a hotel register, occupies two full lines the whole width of the page, and looks like the rough edge of a log-saw. John Spaulding, charged with assaulting "Doc" Ward with intent to kill, had his preliminary trial set for yesterday afternoon. The case was continued until Saturday. W. H. Culp claims to be able to tie a better hangman's noose in less time than anyone else in Topeka. He may be in demand when the murderer of Mrs. A. D. Matson is caught. As the result of the presence of so many school teachers in Topeka all the hotels are crowded, and one hotel began turning customers away as early as 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. William M. Jones brought suit today for a divorce from Mollie Jones, to whom he was married in Leadville, Col., fifteen years ago. He charges that his wife deserted him in 1889. He wants the custody of their 13-year-old girl Grace. The body of Mrs. A. D. Matson will be buried at her old home in Illinois. F. D. Matson, her brother, will take the remains back with him. The day before he leaves a funeral service will be held in Knight's chapel. The coffin will not be opened. Only friends will be admitted. The funeral will be held early next week. There is a large and good family in Topeka whose secrecy is a big factor in anti-Christmas arrangements. Each member brought home Christmas bundles and hid them until Christmas morning. When the bundles were unwrapped with much pride by the giver and expectancy on the part of the family, it was found that four out of six of them had bought "Tribby" for the girls. Isaac Lawrence has brought a suit to reform a deed made several years ago to his kinsman, Frederic C. Lawrence, which gave him possession of lot No. 35 Main street, Roswell. Isaac Lawrence says the deed was made merely through love and affection, with the understanding that he might occupy the lots for mercantile purposes so long as he lived. Now Fred Lawrence is trying to oust him from the property. One very drunk man and two who weren't quite so drunk were in the alley back of J. M. Knight's undertaking establishment yesterday afternoon. The very drunk man became too pliable to walk and his friends put him in a "rough-box," such as are used to contain caskets, which stood at the rear of the place. The top was put over. Several hours later the man sobered up, and when he discovered his resting place he became panic-stricken. He rushed up the alley and told everyone he met: "They tried to bury me alive."

BENT ON "DOING" US.

That Soulless Corporation the Topeka Water Company.

HOW IT CHEATS THE CITY.

Furnishes Unhealthy Water, Falls in the Proper Fire Pressure and Demands Immense Sums to Pay Interest on Inflated Bonds.

The people of Topeka are confronted with a very serious question. How much longer must they submit to the extortion and disregard of its contract by the corporation styled "The Topeka Water Supply company?" In September, 1881, the city council passed an ordinance granting the Topeka Water Supply company a franchise to furnish water to Topeka and its citizens in consideration of which the company bound themselves to do certain things. One of the things they promised to do by the provisions of the ordinance was to supply Topeka and its citizens with "good, clear, healthful and wholesome water, well suited for domestic and manufacturing purposes."

Then they put water under fire pressure and while it cannot now be made public in detail it reveals an almost astounding condition of the water furnished by the company. Not only does the water contain sodium sulphate in large quantities, but organic matter or albuminoids enough for the chemist to pronounce the water furnished "deleterious to the public health." This is no doubt due to the fact that every day or two water is taken directly from the river—particularly when fire pressure is needed.

That is the kind of liquid the water company compels the people of Topeka to use and for which they are charged an exorbitant rate. The water company agreed to furnish a fire pressure which would guarantee excellent fire protection, the following section prescribing the test:

"The following shall be the test of the capacity of the works: To discharge ten one-inch streams, at the same time, from any hydrants on the distribution pipes with fifty feet of hose attached, to the height of one hundred feet, or maintain its equivalent in pressure at the nozzle of hydrants."

And still at the recent test under fire pressure it was found that some of the streams were only forced to a height of twelve feet. In fact, the greatest height to which any of the streams were thrown was only a little over fifty feet or half the distance agreed to in the contract with the city. This is the fire protection upon which the people of Topeka depend for their safety. What would become of a large fire break out?

There is another provision in the ordinance in which the city agrees to pay \$30 per year for each of 300 hydrants to be used for fire protection. Those in excess of 300 were to be supplied with water free of charge. The company lost no time in putting in the hydrants for the use of which it has been paid the nice sum of \$15,000 annually by the city, but when it was asked to extend its mains and put in more hydrants it refused. The reason is apparent. The city would not be required to pay \$30 each for the water furnished to the additional hydrants. The company did not hesitate to take the \$15,000 from the city, which is an outrageous price, even if the water pressure were up to the conditions of the ordinance, but when the city asked it to comply with its part of the contract it seemed very much surprised that it nose into the air and said, "Make me if you can."

That is why the people living in Martin & Dennis' addition, Lowman Hill, and other outlying portions of the city are left absolutely without fire protection though they pay their share of the taxes to support this defective water supply institution.

There is a suit pending in the district court of this county for the forfeiture of the franchise of the company because of its refusal to extend its mains. The suit has been on the docket over two years and was to have been commenced yesterday before J. G. Slonecker as judge pro tem, but the water company was not ready for trial and the case went over to next Wednesday. Even if when the case is finally tried the decision is against the company it will undoubtedly be taken to the supreme court, and with the over-crowded condition of the docket it would hardly be heard much before the franchise of the company expires by limitation in 1901.

The water company has worked a scheme by which it hopes to perpetuate itself. Although the charter expires in 1901, the ordinance provides that the city shall purchase the plant at the expiration of the franchise if it desires, but if not, an extension of twenty years shall be given. The company has therefore issued bonds to the value of more than four times the value of the plant and if the city takes the plant it will have to assume the entire indebtedness of the concern. Nothing could have been more premeditated or dishonest than the action of this corporation, which hopes to continue to fatten itself on the people of Topeka.

There appears to be only one way to get out of the difficulty, and that is to secure the forfeiture of the franchise as soon as possible, and then let the city make a deal for the plant. The people have already paid many times the cost of building the entire establishment in water rent, and the city can furnish the water at cost. The people of Topeka are tired of paying high rates on poor water to pay the interest on inflated bonds. Other cities own their water plants and so should Topeka.

BURGLARS CAUGHT HERE.

The Topeka Police Capture Boston Thieves and Send Them Back There. The police have captured Ed Davis and Frank Johnson, who broke into the home of Engineer Rogers at Horton Sunday night during the family's absence and stole \$11 in money and some small articles about the house. They had some of the stolen goods in their possession when found. Mc Rogers came to Topeka and identified the goods. The men were turned over to the state and taken to Horton. Prescott & Co. have removed to No. 118 West Eighth street.

FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

GOLDEN RULE ARITHMETIC.

How Kenneth and Phil Both Saw the Trained Canary Birds.

"Phil," whispered little Kenneth Brooks, "I've got a secret to tell you after school."

"Nice?" asked Phil. "Yes," was the answer. "Nice for me."

"Oh!" said Phil, and his eyebrows fell. He followed Kenneth around behind the schoolhouse after school to hear the secret.

"My Uncle George," said Kenneth, "has given me a ticket to go and see the man that makes canary birds fire off pistols and all that. Ever seen him?"

"No," said Phil hopefully. "Well, its first rate, and my ticket will take me in twice," said Kenneth, cutting a little caper of delight.

"Same things both times?" asked Phil.

"No, sir; new tricks every time. I say, Phil," Kenneth continued, struck with the other's mournful look, "won't your Uncle George give you one?"

"I ain't got any Uncle George," said Phil.

"That's a fact. How about your mother, Phil?"

"Can't afford it," answered Phil, with his eyes on the ground. Kenneth took his ticket out of his pocket and looked at it. It certainly promised to admit the bearer into Mozart hall two afternoons. Then he looked at Phil, and a secret wish stole into his heart that he hadn't said anything about his ticket; but, after a few moments' struggle, "Phil," he cried, "I wonder if the man wouldn't change this and give me two tickets that would take you and me in one time?"

Phil's eyes grew bright, and a happy smile crept over his broad little face. "Do you think he would?" he asked eagerly.

"Let's try," said Kenneth, and the two little boys started off for the office window at the hall.

"But, Kenneth," said Phil, stopping short. "It ain't fair for me to take your ticket."

"It is, though," answered his friend stoutly. "Cause I'll get more fun from going once with you than twice with myself." This settled the matter, and Phil gave in.

"So you want two tickets for one time?" said the agent.

"Yes, sir," said Kenneth, taking off his sailor hat, "one for Phil, you know."

"You do arithmetic by the golden rule down here, don't you?" asked the ticket man.

"No, sir; we use Ray's Practical," answered the boys, and they didn't know for a long time what that man meant by the golden rule.—Southern Churchman.

Tale of a Bad Little Boy.



There was once a pretty urth-in— Hair and eyes as black as jet. But he squandered all his pennies On the nasty cigarette.



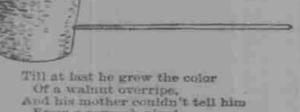
Yes, he smoked them by the dozen, And he smoked them by the score, Till his face was sadly altered, But he only smoked the more.



And his father stormed and threatened, And his mother pleaded, yet He just shook his head and fumbled For another cigarette.



And his eyes grew dim and misty, And his features, once so sweet, Changed so people failed to know him When they met him on the street.



Till at last he grew the color Of a walnut overripe, And his mother couldn't tell him From a cornucop pipe!

Three Useful Boys.

Here is a joke from Indianapolis which small boys will be sure to appreciate. A certain Mrs. Warts said to her maid of all work, Mary Ann by name: "Mary Ann, these balusters seem always dusty. I was at Mrs. Johnson's today, and her stair rails are clean and smooth as glass."

To which Mary Ann replied: "Yes, mem. She has t'ree shmal boys."

Mounting the Camel.

A game for children is called "Mounting the Camel in Cairo Street." A large camel is cut from dark cloth and fastened to the white background of a sheet. The figure of a man is cut from white or scarlet, and the point of the game is, when unfolded, to fasten the figure with a pin in a proper position to ride the camel.

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CURBSTONE SHYSTERS.

Lawyer Linn Webb Has Something to Say About Them. To the Editor of the STATE JOURNAL: Now and then the city papers contain accounts of the frauds and deceits practiced by certain purveyors of the "Topeka Bar." If such accounts are true, the guilty shysters should be disbarred. Every judge and lawyer in the city knows who these curbstones, jail-corridor, police shysters and vultures are. They would deceive the ignorant, pilfer the poor and rob the dead. They bring into disrepute the noblest of professions. They bring suits without merit and fritter away the rights and money of their clients. The decent and honorable service of lawyers of ability, integrity and experience is superseded

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by the cunning counsel and fraudulent practice of these impostors. The Bar association should be purged of the entire gang of professional frauds, and they should be prevented from disgracing courts of justice and the high calling of the law. LINUS S. WEBB, Alma, Kas., Dec. 26.

THAT ALLEY OPENED. After a Long Delay the Alley Between Second and Third Streets Opened. The street commissioner has opened the alley between Second and Third streets from Tyler to Fillmore. The people in that part of the city have been petitioning the council for several months to open the alley. The matter has been referred and referred again and finally when action was taken a mistake was made and no tax levy to pay the expense could be made. The council then decided to pay the expense out of the general revenue fund and when the tax is levied the fund will be reimbursed. A Remarkable Achievement in Railroad Affairs. Was the running of the Exposition flyer, the famous twenty hour train between Chicago and New York, via the Lake Shore route, in service during the World's fair. A handsome litho-water-color of this train may be secured by sending ten cents in silver to C. K. Wilber, Western Passenger Agent, Chicago. Leave Your Order For a noby suit with Olof Ekberg, 716 Kansas avenue. Nobby Suits at Ekberg's, 716 Kansas avenue. Good work done by the Peerless

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